11/30/76

Dear Les,

Another update for when you get back.

Without recall of the details of what I've written you I can say it has to have been understated. The committee people are that bad. The practises of the run-amuck prosecutor who cares about conviction only, conviction based on preconception, not evidence. In some cases the identical practises that have long victimized the poor and defenseless.

With incredible insanities and stupidities. They don't know the first thing about investigating. The spooks manipulate them with ease. They swat at every sound that they think may be an invisible fly. The spooks have been using the WaPost, which is at least willing. Their two big stories have been largely non-stories, with the omission of the known relevant and with known factual error, in the second case, a Ron Kessler piece on the electronic surveillance of the Russian Embassy in Mexico City.

The fools rush in. They don't phone and tell two supposed witnesses, American employees, to come to Washington. They fly there, not knowing anything at all or even what to suspect. I'm sure I cna write the scenario out in some detail in adavance. Including the conclusion.

Wayne Chastian phoned. He says Richmond claims he was not at the firehouse when King was killed, had also been withdrawn and was sitting outside when Redditt was in the with the biggies.

I've gotten 500 more pages of the intial FBI King "investigation." I'll pick them up day after tomorrow. They stonewalled this delivery for three weeks. Because I'll not be able to stop their stonewalling for a while I know they'll continue it so I did not take a day off to get these pages. That is what it would mean.

I've also, after about 8 months of effort, gotten the index, about 3,000 sheets of xeroxes of a card file, of the initial 25 numbered, 29 actual volumes of the initial investigation leading to the prosecution. jim picked it up yesterday. Jim got it yesterday. I'll be loaded on Thursday's return!

If I know these Feebs as well as I think they'll have masked much and without justification, more to annoy and deter than to hide, part of their whittling at the law and at me and my work. The index will remain valuable in many ways. If Jim is willing I'm sure I'll be able to come up with an actionable offense in their maskings. Most lawyers won't think of such a course because most judges will be outraged at the mere thought of alleging, leave alone punishing official crime. Gotta be a first.

The sheer volume of this stuff denies me access when I finally get it. I've had to suspend detailed note-making.

There will be one hell of a doctoral thesis in this. I've found a young woman I've never met who has gotten approval for one from my files, on the Warren Commission executive sessions. That will be a one-shot. No commission will ever make the same mistake, of making and leaving a record for a devil loving scripture to dig out. Got a candidate?

On the executive sessions, I've forced them to give me all but two and part of a third. It is in court, again Thursday. I've won a battle against the CIA on that case. They refused to answer interrogatories on the ground they are not a respondent. Hell, they usually don't respond when they are the respondent! So they, too, are nibbling at me. They've agree to respond to some - in 60 days. Jim learned yesterday. I used a Nixonian description and told Jim lets throw it at the judge.I'd rather go to trial without full discovery and clobber the bastards on the witness stand. Think it is possible, that I know enough, if Jim can find time to learn it. Theyneed a little exposing, a little light, a little fresh air. The real problem with doing anything is the refusal of the press, which would be the major beneficiary, to cover and report. I no longer try to interest it. All is on the covered court dockets anyway. I've won major precedents that are entirely unreported.

The Lane story is even worse than we'd thought. Details if you want them. When I'm 80 and have done more of what is important to me I'll finish the book I started on him in 1968.

Best to all,